



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
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Briefing

Use of Psychotropic Medications for Children and Youth in the Child Welfare and Probation Systems

Overview of DMH's Juvenile Court Mental Health Service (JCMHS) Program

- Brief History
- Current functions and processes (Attachment 1 - JCMHS Program Description)
- Scope (e.g., Psychotropic Medication Authorization Forms (PMAFs) reviewed annually, staffing)

The PMAF review process (Attachment 2 - Superior Court Protocol, Attachment 3 - PMAF (i.e., JV-220A))

Existing Department of Mental Health (DMH) Quality Assurance Measures

- DMH Credentialing of DMH providers and DMH-contracted providers
- DMH Psychotropic Guidelines Committee (for use of psychotropics in children and adolescents)
- DMH Parameters for Use of Psychotropic Medication in Children and Adolescents (Attachment 4)
- DMH Parameters for Juvenile Court Mental Health Services' Review of Psychotropic Medication Authorization Forms (PMAFs) for Youth in State Custody (Attachment 5)
- JCMHS psychiatric consultation for DCFS and Probation youth with atypical medication regimens
- Psychotropic medication education for parents and caregivers (Probation booklet available, DCFS handout in press)

Collaboration with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation

- DMH-DCFS Psychotropic Medication Committee
- Juvenile Court Psychotropic Medication Monthly Meeting
- Informal consultation

Initiatives in Progress

- Access to CWS/CMS database by JCMHS Staff (granted/began in February 2015)
- Modification of PMAF to include more specific interventions re: non-medication interventions
- Increasing role of DCFS and Probation staff in providing essential information to the court prior to PMAF approval
- DMH Specialized Foster Care staff input to JCMHS staff re: non-medication interventions
- Development of electronic PMAF submission process and database
- Expansion of provider credentialing to include non-DMH/non-DMH contracted physicians
- "Level of Confidence" determinations re: prescribers by JCMHS (Attachment 5); effective 5/1/15

Examples of Data (Attachment 6 – DCFS PMAF Analysis 11/14, DCFS Youth (%) on Psychotropic Medication from 2009-2014)